

Polar Gateways Arctic Circle Sunrise 2008 Conference
Barrow, Alaska, January 23-29, 2008
<http://polargateways2008.org/>

Abstract

A Young Physics Student's Perspective of the IGY

Margaret A. Shea

University of Alabama at Huntsville

The beginning of the IGY in July 1957 coincided with the start of my senior year at the University of New Hampshire. During 1956-1958, I was employed as an undergraduate assistant tabulating data from the cosmic ray neutron monitors located at Durham and Mt. Washington, NH. The period from 1956-1957 was busy preparing for the forthcoming International Geophysical Year. This talk will include the famous 23 February 1956 ground-level enhancement that led to a change in the way cosmic radiation data was reported during the IGY. I will also include experiences in data processing and international data exchange during the IGY and IGC as well as a description of the working conditions at the Mt. Washington Observatory where the neutron monitor was located. This observatory has the reputation of some of the worst weather in North America.